

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 00480 090411Z

64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 EB-07 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 027803

R 090322Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6536

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0480

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING MSG RECD ACTION BANGKOK FROM UDORN IS REPEATED
TO YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: THAI-LAO BORDER TRAFFIC AT NOGN KHAI

1. SUMMARY: THE THAI-LAO BORDER AT NONG KHAI IS OPEN TO
BOTH PASSENGER AND CARGO TRAFFIC. THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED
(300 - 400) LAO COME TO THAILAND DAILY TO SHOP AND TO
VISIT FRIENDS. THAI BUSINESSMEN ARE BEGINNING TO SEND
GOODS TO VIENTIANE AND TO IMPORT SMALL QUANTITIES OF LUMBER
FROM LAOS. THAI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE DEPORTED TWO
LAO REFUGEES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NONG KHAI IMMIGRATION OFFICE, OPEN FROM 0800 TO
1700 IS PROCESSING NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED LAO VISITORS A DAY.
PEOPLE COME TO SHOP AT THE TOWN'S STORES, LOOKING FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 00480 090411Z

BASIC ITEMS LIKE SALT, FISH SAUCE, AND DETERGENT. THAI

AUTHORITIES DO NOT PERMIT INDIVIDUALS TO CARRY GASOLINE ACROSS THE RIVER INTO LAOS. THERE IS A THAI REQUIREMENT THAT LAO WHO USE A BORDER CROSSING PASS IN LIEU OF A PASSPORT REMAIN WITHIN 25 KILOMETERS OF NONG KHAI. WHILE RELATIVES (MANY LIVING IN THE LAO REFUGEE CAMP ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN). FEWER THAN TEN OF THE RECENT VISITORS

HAVE REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO REMAIN AS REFUGEES AND NOT RETURN TO LAOS. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER REQUIRE TRAVELERS, THAI AND LAO ALIKE, TO RETURN HOME BEFORE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE DAY THEY CROSS.

3. THAI BUSINESSMEN, WARY OF THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS (PDRL), ARE MOVING CAUTIOUSLY TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS IN VIENTIANE. MERCHANTS ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH FORMER LAO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES TO EXPLORE THE PROFITABILITY OF ESTABLISHING EXPORT TRADE IN THE SAME BASIC HOUSEHOLD COMMODITIES LAO TRAVELERS ARE BUYING IN NONG KHAI.

4. THE OPENING OF THE BORDER TO CARGO TRADE HAS PERMITTED THE THAI TO IMPORT SMALL QUANTITIES OF LUMBER WHICH WERE PURCHASED BEFORE THE BORDER CLOSURE BUT, UNTIL NOW, WERE STORED IN LAO WAREHOUSES. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THAI BUSINESSMEN, UNABLE TO GET GUARANTEES FROM THE PDRL, ARE RELUCTANT TO RESUME THE ONCE FLURISHING CROSS-RIVER LUMBER TRADE.

5. CROSSING POINTS AT SRI CHIENGMAI AND THA BO (NONG KHAI PROVINCE) REMAIN CLOSED. SMUGGLING CONTINUES TO BE AN ANNOYANCE TO THE RTG. IMMIGRATION OFFICER IN NONG KHAI SAID THAT POLICE INTERCEPTED A BOAT LOAD OF LIQUOR CROSSING INTO THAILAND ON THE NIGHT OF JAN. 5. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT A FEW REFUGEES CONTINUE TO CROSS INTO THAILAND BUT THAT AUTHORITIES ARE BEGINNING TO DEAL MORE STERNLY WITH ILLEGAL ALIENS. CONSULATE REFUGEE AFFAIRS ASSISTANT REPORTED THAT TWO LAO WHO ENTERED THAILAND AT THA BO ON JAN. 6 WERE TAKEN TO NONG KHAI CITY BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AND DEPORTED TO LAOS. THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED OF REFUGEES BEING OFFICIALLY DEPORTED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 00480 090411Z

BY THE RTG.
HAMILTON
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO00480
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760007-0966
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760173/aaaacmvo.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI-LAO BORDER TRAFFIC AT NOGN KHAI
TAGS: PBOR, TH, LA
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006